

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: AFRICA IN THE U.S. PRESS, DECEMBER 14, 1976

1. NEW YORK TIMES:

-- THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE IS DUE TO ADJOURN TODAY UNTIL LATE IN JANUARY TO GIVE TIME FOR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE DEADLOCK BETWEEN THE WHITE RHODESIANS AND THE FOUR BLACK NATIONALIST FACTIONS. CROSLAND IS TO ANNOUNCE THE ADJOURNMENT IN A STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TODAY.

-- AP REPORTS THE DERAILMENT OF A RHODESIAN TRAIN WHEN A BOMB BLEW UP THE TRACK ABOUT SIX MILES SOUTH OF VICTORIA FALLS.

-- JOHN BURNS REPORTS IN MORE DETAIL ON THE CASE OF
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WELLINGTON TSHAZIBANE. HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN

DETAINED BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE IMPLICATION IN THE EXPLOSION
IN A JOHANNESBURG RESTAURANT LAST WEEK.

2. WASHINGTON POST:

-- IN A NEWS ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS,

HOBART ROWEN SAYS THAT THE CHIEF THREAT IS THE ACCUMULATION OF AN ENORMOUS DEBT BY INDUSTRIAL AND LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ALIKE. ZAIRE HAS ALREADY OBTAINED A RESCHEDULING OF ITS DEBT PAYMENTS, AND THE FEAR IS THAT SOME MAJOR NATION MIGHT BE FORCED INTO ASKING FOR A DEBT MORATORIUM. THE NEAR-CRISIS SITUATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND ITALY ARE CASES IN POINT.

-- SPEAKING TO REPORTERS IN JOHANNESBURG ON HIS RETURN FROM GENEVA, SMITH SAID THE GENEVA TALKS ARE NOW "FURTHER AWAY FROM THE OBJECTIVE THAN WHEN WE STARTED." SCRANTON, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID THE U.S. WAS PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE SO FAR. HE TOLD THE TRUSTEESHIP COMMITTEE THAT THERE IS NOW A REALISTIC PROSPECT OF MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA. IN SALISBURY, SECURITY FORCES ANNOUNCED THAT AFRICAN NATIONALIST GUERRILLAS HAVE BLOWN UP A RAILWAY LINE. THE MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY REPORTED THAT FIGHTING BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND RHODESIAN TROOPS HAD BEEN GOING ON SINCE FRIDAY NEAR THE BORDER.

-- IN SOWETO, POLICE SEARCHED THE HOME OF WELLINGTON TSHAZIBANE, THE OXFORD-EDUCATED BLACK ENGINEER WHO DIED, REPORTEDLY BY HANGING HIMSELF, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

3. THE BALTIMORE SUN:

-- REUTERS REPORTS FROM SALISBURY THAT SMITH HAS RETURNED TO RHODESIAN SOIL AND SAID THAT WHILE THE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA HAD BEEN CHAOTIC IT HAD NOT BROKEN DOWN. "THERE WAS NO PROGRESS AT ALL, SO AN ADJOURNMENT WILL NOT MAKE THE SITUATION ANY WORSE AND IT MAY MAKE IT A LITTLE BETTER." HE HINTED THAT HE MIGHT CONDUCT NEGOTIATION ON HIS OWN WITH BLACK NATIONALISTS IN RHODESIA.

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-- AP REPORTS FROM SALISBURY THAT GUERRILLAS BLEW UP A RHODESIAN RAILROAD TRACK AND DERAILED A SOUTH BOUND TRAIN FROM VICTORIA FALLS TO BULAWAYO. THERE WERE NO INJURIES; THIS WAS THE THIRD ATTACK ON THE RAIL LINE WITHIN FOUR MONTHS.

-- AP REPORTS FROM NEW YORK THAT THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VOTED 113 TO 1 WITH 14 ABSTENTIONS FOR A RESOLUTION CALL-
ING FOR "ALL POSSIBLE AID" TO ENABLE ANGOLA, MOZAM-
BIQUE AND "THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES SURROUNDING THE RACIST
REGIMES" TO APPLY SANCTIONS FULLY.

4. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR:

-- GEOFFREY GODSELL REVIEWS THE OPTIONS OPEN TO THE
BRITISH IN PLAYING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE RHODESIAN
SETTLEMENT. THESE INCLUDE BRITAINS' INSTALLING A
COMMISSIONER TO OVERSEE THE TRANSITION, AND BRITAIN
ASSUMING CERTAIN KEY POSTS IN THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT.
SOUTH AFRICA IS VIEWED AS A KEY FACTOR IN GETTING SMITH
TO AGREE TO AN INCREASED BRITISH ROLE IN THE TRANSITION
GOVERNMENT. KISSINGER

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